

Attorney Docket No.: PTQ-0038
Inventors: Van Eyk et al.
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In the Claims:

Please cancel claims 4-11, 13 and 15 without prejudice.

Please amend the claims as follows:

B¹ 1. (amended) A method for identifying an agent which inhibits damage to cardiac and skeletal muscle comprising assessing the ability of a potential muscle protective agent to increase myosin light chain 1 (MLC1) phosphorylation wherein an increase in MLC1 phosphorylation by the agent is indicative of the agent inhibiting damage to cardiac and skeletal muscle.

2. (amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the ability of the agent to increase MLC1 phosphorylation is assessed in vitro in purified myosin, purified myosin light chain 1, or purified isoforms thereof.

B² 12. (amended) A method for identifying new therapeutic targets for agents which inhibit damage to cardiac and skeletal muscle comprising identifying kinases or phosphatases that modulate MLC1 phosphorylation status, wherein modulation of MLC1 phosphorylation status by the identified kinase or phosphatase is indicative of the identified kinase or phosphatase being a therapeutic target for an agent which inhibits damage to cardiac or skeletal muscle.